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TECHNICAL NOTES
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ALASKA FOREST RESEARCH CENTER
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE

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No. 41

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1957 Cone Crop Report for Alaska Tree Species

Annual cone crop ratings for Alaska were started in 1956. The following rating system, devised by the Oregon State Board of Forestry, was used in Southeast Alaska, Kenai Peninsula, and Prince William Sound.

None - 1. No cones on any trees.
- 2. Few cones on occasional trees.
V. light- 3. Few cones on 25 percent of the trees.
- 4. Few cones on 25 percent of the trees--many cones on occasional trees.
Light - 5. Few cones on 75 percent of the trees.
- 6. Many cones on some trees--few cones on 75 percent of the trees.
Medium - 7. Some cones on all trees.
- 8. Many cones on some trees--some cones on all trees.
Heavy - 9. Many cones on 75 percent of the trees--some cones on all trees.
- 10. Many cones on all trees.

The ratings for 1957, averaged by ranger districts and for all of Southeast Alaska (all areas south of Yakutat) combined, are given in table 1. Ranger district boundaries are shown in fig. 1.

Table 1.--1957 cone crop ratings

Species	Ranger Districts					Southeast Alaska	
	Kenai	Cordova	Chatham	Petersburg	Kasaan	Rating	No. observ.
White spruce	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sitka spruce	9	9	3	3	1	2	30
Western hemlock	-	4	8	6	6	6	25
Western redcedar	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Alaska cedar	-	-	-	1	1	1	18
Lodgepole pine	-	-	-	1	1	1	3

The reports for Sitka spruce (Picea sitchensis (Bong.) Carr.) showed a steady decline in cone production from north to south. The north gulf coast areas reported a "heavy" crop while most of the Kasaan District reports indicated "none" or occasionally "very light". Because 73 percent of the Southeast Alaska Sitka spruce reports were from the Kasaan District, the regional average is heavily weighted toward the low southern average.

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Most of the western hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla (Raf.) Sarg.) reports indicated a "medium" cone crop. One area reported a "heavy" crop, five reported "light", eight reported "very light", and one reported "none".

All of the western redcedar (Thuja plicata Donn) reports were rated as "none". At best, only a few cones on occasional trees were observed.

A few ratings were made for the less abundant species. The Alaska cedar (Chamaecyparis nootkatensis (D. Don Spach) crop was rated "medium" for cones which were in the second year of the two years required to reach maturity. No first year cones were observed. Reports from the Petersburg and Kasaan districts indicated an absence of lodgepole pine cones. White spruce cones at the Kenai Lake Ranger Station were reported as "very light".

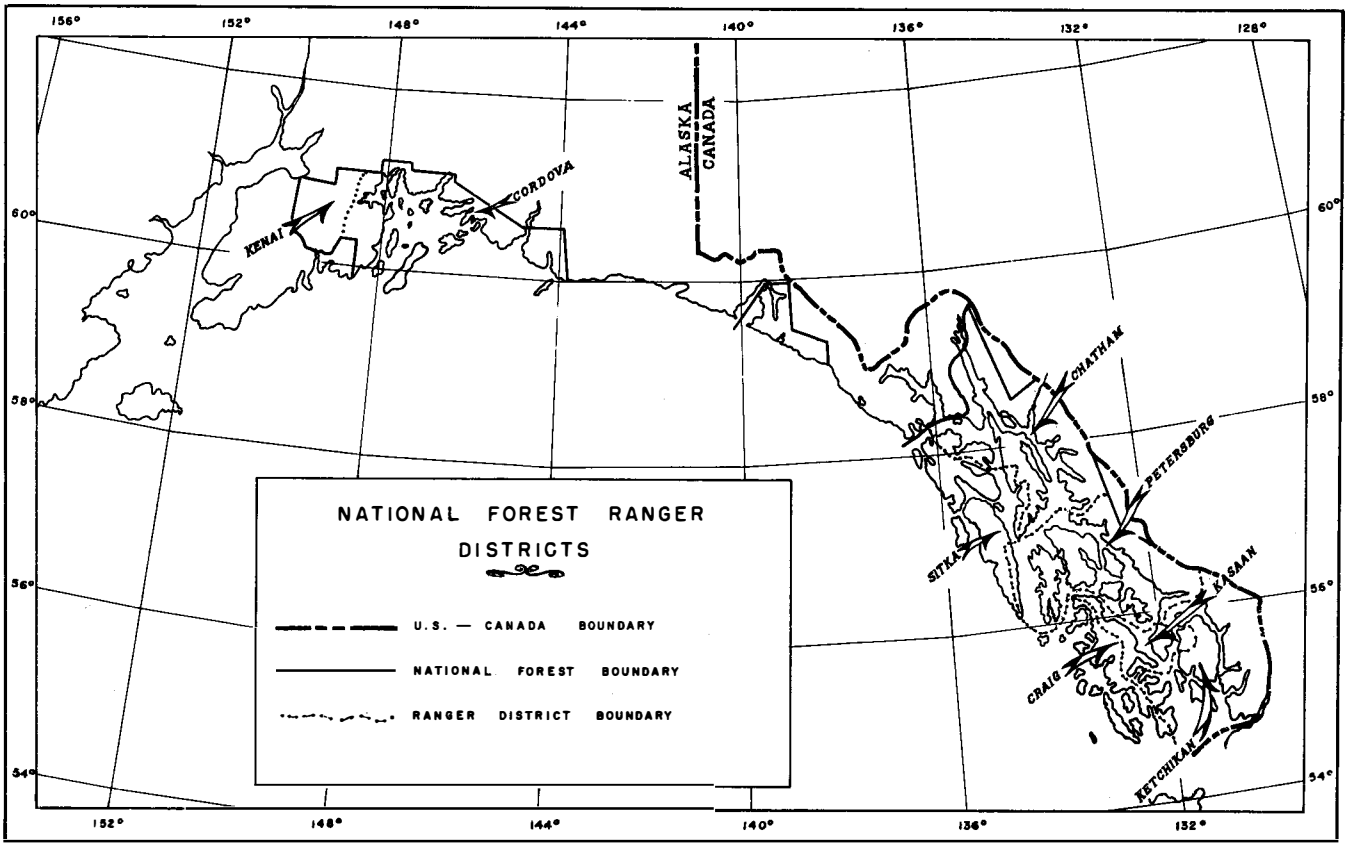

Figure 1.--Ranger districts reporting.

January 1958

R. A. Gregory

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